



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**May 28, 2002
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Rhonda Pratt, Mary Ruth Holder, Pablo Valdez, Jeff Francell, Amy Babich, Linda Guerrero and Jeb Boyt

Board Members Absent: Clint Small

City Staff Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Stuart Strong, Darryl Lewis and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES May 14, 2002 meeting. **Board Member Boyt** made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. The Board was in favor 8-0-0.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Julie Fitch, Downtown Austin Alliance, explained the DAA's opposition to the Downtown Design Guidelines as described below under Item E.2.

D. PRESENTATION

Ted Siff, Executive Director of the Austin Parks Foundation provided an update to the board on Republic Square Park. Mr. Siff described the partnership consisting of the Texas Commission of the Arts, Downtown Austin Alliance, APF and PARD regarding the efforts to redesign and improve Republic Square Park. Mr. Siff explained the history of the park and presented the proposed new design. The proposed new plan for the park will include granite columns and a water feature designed by artist Jesus Bautista Moroles. Mr. Siff also discussed a multi-purpose open space for picnicking as well as serving as a performance area.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Make a Recommendation Regarding Proposed Republic Square Park Plan.

Board Member Holder made the motion to endorse the redesign proposal for Republic Square Park upon two conditions: that the contract with the Texas Commission ^{ON} of the Arts provides for maintenance of the water feature by that Commission and that if upon review by the Historic Landmark Commission the Commission requires some design change, the item will be brought back to the Parks Board for the Board's further recommendation. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 8-0-0.**

2. Make a Recommendation to City Council Concerning the Downtown Design Guidelines.

Julie Fitch distributed a letter stating the DAA's request for the Parks Board not to take action on the City Code amendments incorporating the Downtown Design Guidelines. The memo indicated that the DAA is requesting more time to study to proposed amendments and how they could affect the Smart Growth Matrix. The DAA believes that putting the design guidelines into the City Code will ^{make} it more difficult to develop businesses in the downtown district.

Katie Larson, Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department, Project Manager gave a presentation explaining the proposed guidelines and ordinance changes for development in the downtown area. In December 1997, City Council directed the Design Commission to prepare guidelines to improve quality of emerging development in terms of architectural and urban designs. In December 1998 the Design Commission completed the draft guidelines and in May 2000 council approved these guidelines. The commission has spent two years developing the guidelines as a rulebook for denser, mixed use, pedestrian-friendly development in the central business district.

Board Member Francell made the motion to support the proposed City Code Amendments for Downtown Austin Design Guidelines numbers 11, 12 and 13 presented by TPSD Staff (relating to the development of areas adjacent to downtown parks) and to support the exemption of the Parks and Recreation Department facilities from the requirements in proposed Code Amendment numbers 7 through 10. **Board Member Valdez** seconded the motion. **The vote passed in favor 8-0-0.**

3. Make a Recommendation to City Council Concerning an Ordinance to Establish an Administrative Variance Process Implementing the Austin Clean Water Program.

Reynaldo Cantu, P.E. Assistant Director, Water & Wastewater Utility Department gave a presentation regarding the implementation of the Austin Clean Water

Program. Mr. Cantu stated this item was a directive the Water & Wastewater Utility Department (WWU) received from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which issued 'Administrative Order' (AO) for alleged violations under the Clean Water Act (CWA) related to sanitary sewer overflows. Penalties for not meeting the AO schedule are stipulated to be a maximum of \$27,500 per violation per day. The Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP) is proposing an integrated design/permit process in conjunction with an administrative variance approval process to expedite this process.

Board Member Holder stated that the Parks and Recreation Board recognizes the need for the City to implement in a timely manner the Austin Clean Water Program in order to ensure compliance with the mandates of the Administrative Order issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The Board further recognizes that many older wastewater lines are located in sensitive creeks and is concerned that spills from these wastewater lines degrades water quality in these creeks. Some of Austin's parklands and greenbelt areas contain wastewater lines that may need repair or replacement during the implementation of the Austin Clean Water Program and ~~since~~ parklands/greenbelts are sometimes used to provide access for workers and equipment needing to repair or replace wastewater lines. **Board Member Holder** made the motion recommending conditional approval of the proposed ordinance to establish an administrative variance process implementing the Austin Clean Water Program with the following changes:

- 1). Staff from the Water and Wastewater Department working on the Austin Clean Water Program and their consultants will work with PARD staff and the Parks and Recreation Board to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for all projects in parklands/greenbelts to be carried out under the Austin Clean Water Program that contains general terms and conditions relating to mitigation for projects in parklands/greenbelts and that the flow chart for Design/Permit Process the Austin Clean Water Program be changed to reflect the development of the Memorandum of Understanding; *should*
- 2). City Council or the City Manager should provide additional funding, if necessary, to ensure adequate mitigation and restoration for not only streams and banks but also mitigation and restoration for upland park and recreation features (including, but not limited to trails, established recreational areas, trees and other vegetation) that may be impacted by projects in parklands/greenbelts under the Austin Clean Water Program
- 3.) Part 4 of the Ordinance should be changed to include the Parks and Recreation Board as an entity to which the Director of Watershed Protection and Development Review will submit semi-annual reports.

Board Member Pratt seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 8-0-0.**

Pablo Valdez abstaining

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares informed the board of an event organized by the Austin Parks Foundation, "Parkfest" which was held over the weekend at Auditorium Shore. This concert event will hopefully become an APF major fundraiser. Also occurring over the same weekend was a Triathlon on Town Lake.

Mr. Olivares introduced Park Police Acting Chief, Darryl Lewis to the board. Mr. Lewis has been with the Parks and Recreation Department for 19 years and first began his career at the Givens Recreation Center as an Activity Specialist.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

Board Member Pratt informed the board of the upcoming Splash Event at Metz Recreation Center. Ms. Pratt also stated various track meets would be held at Burger and Nelson Stadiums.

Land and Facilities Committee

Items discussed at Land and Facilities were items voted on at the May 28th Parks Board meeting.

Navigation Committee

None

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Holder informed the Board Members that she had attended the first BCP Transition Advisory Team Meeting which was largely an organizational meeting at which the role of the team was discussed and some initial transition issues were listed.

I. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.